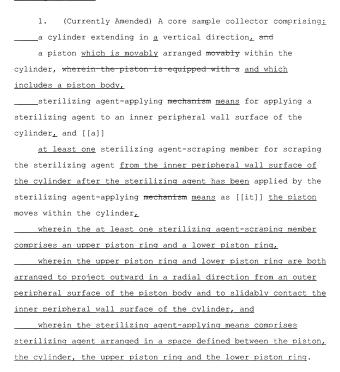
Listing of Claims:



Claim 2 (Cancelled).

- 3. (Currently Amended) The core sample collector according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the sterilizing agent-applying mechanism is made up by arranging means further comprises a sterilizing agent carrier arranged within the space formed by partitioning the vacant space between the piston, and the cylinder, with the upper piston ring and the lower piston ring, and causing wherein the sterilizing agent to be is carried and held on by the sterilizing agent carrier.
- 4. (Currently Amended) The core sample collector according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the sterilizing agent is comprises one of an antimicrobial or and a bactericidal plastic polymeric substance.
- 5. (Currently Amended) The core sample collector according to claim 3, wherein the sterilizing agent $\frac{1}{12}$ comprises one of an antimicrobial $\frac{1}{12}$ and $\frac{1}{12}$ bactericidal plastic polymeric substance.
- 6. (Currently Amended) A method of taking a core sample, comprising using the core sample collector according to of claim 1 or 2 to collect the core sample comprising:

contacting the cylinder against a surface from which a core sample is to be taken; and

causing relative movement between the cylinder and the piston such that: (i) the sterilizing agent-applying means applies sterilizing agent to the inner peripheral wall surface of the cylinder, (ii) the sterilizing agent-scraping member scrapes the sterilizing agent from the inner peripheral wall, and (iii) a core is received in the cylinder.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of taking a core sample, comprising using the core sample collector according to of claim 3 to collect the core sample comprising:

contacting the cylinder against a surface from which a core sample is to be taken; and

causing relative movement between the cylinder and the piston such that: (i) the sterilizing agent-applying means applies sterilizing agent to the inner peripheral wall surface of the cylinder, (ii) the sterilizing agent-scraping member scrapes the sterilizing agent from the inner peripheral wall, and (iii) a core is received in the cylinder.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of taking a core sample, comprising using the core sample collector according to of claim 4 to collect the core sample comprising:

contacting the cylinder against a surface from which a core sample is to be taken; and

causing relative movement between the cylinder and the piston such that: (i) the sterilizing agent-applying means applies sterilizing agent to the inner peripheral wall surface of the cylinder, (ii) the sterilizing agent-scraping member scrapes the sterilizing agent from the inner peripheral wall, and (iii) a core is received in the cylinder.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of taking a core sample, comprising using the core sample collector according to of claim 5 to collect the core sample comprising:

contacting the cylinder against a surface from which a core sample is to be taken; and

causing relative movement between the cylinder and the piston such that: (i) the sterilizing agent-applying means applies sterilizing agent to the inner peripheral wall surface of the cylinder, (ii) the sterilizing agent-scraping member scrapes the sterilizing agent from the inner peripheral wall, and (iii) a core is received in the cylinder.

10. (New) The core sample collector according to claim 1, wherein the upper piston ring is arranged on the outer peripheral surface of the piston body.

- 11. (New) The core sample collector according to claim 1, wherein the lower piston ring is arranged on the outer peripheral surface of the piston body.
- 12. (New) The core sample collector according to claim 1, wherein the upper piston ring and the lower piston ring are both arranged on the outer peripheral surface of the piston body.
- 13. (New) The core sample collector according to claim 1, further comprising an additional upper piston ring arranged substantially parallel to the upper piston ring and on an upper portion of the outer peripheral surface of the piston body.
- 14. (New) The core sample collector according to claim 1, further comprising an additional lower piston ring arranged substantially parallel to the lower piston ring and on a lower portion of the outer peripheral surface of the piston body.
- 15. (New) The core sample collector according to claim 14, further comprising an additional upper piston ring arranged substantially parallel to the upper piston ring and on an upper portion of the outer peripheral surface of the piston body.

- 16. (New) The core sample collector according to claim 1, wherein the upper piston ring and the lower piston ring are arranged substantially parallel to each other and separated from each other.
- 17. (New) The core sample collector according to claim 1, wherein the piston body comprises a recessed portion between the upper piston ring and the lower piston ring, and the recessed portion has an outer diameter that is smaller than a diameter of the piston body.
- 18. (New) The core sample collector according to claim 1, wherein the upper piston ring and the lower piston ring are Orings.
- 19. (New) The core sample collector according to claim 18, wherein the O-rings are arranged on and around the outer peripheral surface of the piston body.